



Roselle History Museum Newsletter

Official Publication of the Roselle Historical Foundation

39 East Elm Street Roselle, IL 60172-2026



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

The volunteers at the Roselle History Museum wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

Please join us on December 6 2015 for the annual **Christmas Open House** from 2:00 to 4:00 PM at the Sumner House Museum on Prospect Ave across from the village hall.. Enjoy home made cookies and coffee, sign up for door prizes, sing Christmas carol played on the antique pump organ by Curt Wolfanger in the Richter House. Visit both museum buildings. We hope to see you there.

Sip & Paint



Date Night ** Girls Night Out ** Social Groups

Try something new. No experience required. Enjoy a festive evening creating a painting while enjoying a selection of wines and cheeses. In only two hours, beginning and experienced artists will be guided by Roselle artist *Paulina Engel* to create a completed work of art. Great for singles, couples, friends and holiday presents. Sponsored by the Roselle History Museum.

When: Friday, January 15, 2016; 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Where: Roselle History Museum 39 E. Elm Street

Cost: \$40.00 per person; all supplies included.

Registration: Call 630/351-5300.

Registration in advance required.

Minimum attendance 5; maximum 10.

Board of Directors

Ray Hitzemann—Pres.

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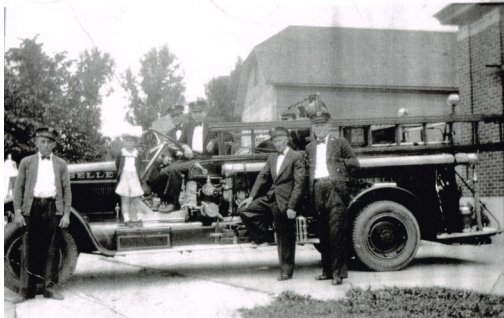
Historian

Joan Beauprez

MUSEUM HOURS Open from 2-4PM every Sunday and almost any other time by appointment. Phone 630-351-5300 for more information.

VOLUNTEERS: We are always looking for people who are interested in helping preserve the history of our village and the surrounding area. Do you enjoy working on displays, gathering historical evidence, researching photographs or just puttering around cutting news articles for our archives? We can also use people who are handy with tools to do miscellaneous repairs and modifications or, assist with building displays, floats, etc. There are no fixed hours and your compensation is the good feeling you get when you have helped us complete an important project Please call us at 630-351-5300.

ROSELLE FIRE DEPARTMENT by Marge Lichthardt Engel



Back in the 1930's, following the fire trucks was a favorite past-time for many of Roselle's residents. It was not unusual to be a part of a procession of as many as 20 cars following the fire truck. Most were grass fires, but it was still exciting.

The Fire Department was an important part of my parents lives. My mother did her part too. She, and many of the firemen's wives, served at the many farm auctions in the area. She fried hamburgers, made coffee and home- made doughnuts. At the Fire Department picnics my folks helped run the bingo stand. My mother spent many hours during the year looking for sales to buy the bingo prizes.

We never missed going to the surrounding Fire Department picnics and carnivals held every summer. Bartlett had the biggest and best. It was a wonderful place to see friends.

The Roselle Fire Department would not accept calls outside the village unless the party had signed up as a member. In the early 30's the fee was \$35 a year. Hugo Gerschef-ske, who lived just outside the village near Turner's Pond elected not to pay the \$35 annual fee. In 1933 his house caught on fire and many residents including some of the Roselle firemen stood and watched the house burn down.

The worst and most tragic fire I saw was the Theimann barn fire of August 9,1936 at the corner of Irving Park and Rodenburg Road. It was awful to see dead horses being dragged out of the burned down barn. This fire started with a lightning strike during a severe and windy storm. The wooden barn was loaded with hay and literally exploded into fire threatening the house and the Lutheran Church across the road.

Lucille West recalls her mother crying and pleading with the Roselle Fire Department Chief to come and help put out the fire. This, along with many other bad farm fires shortly prompted the Village of Roselle to create the Rural Fire Protection Department.

My father, Walter Lichthardt, was a member of the Roselle Volunteer Fire Department from the 30's till his death in 1963. He was very conscientious and never missed a fire-call. However, in spite of his best efforts he seldom made the truck, always a few seconds too late. One day, the fire whistle blew just as he was pulling in his driveway. I remember his saying to my mother "Boy, this time I've got a head start – I won't miss the truck this time." A little while later he came back home looking somewhat dejected. Surprised at his early return my mother commented "I can't believe you missed the truck this time." My father said "I was the first one there – I opened the garage door for the truck and meanwhile the others arrived, got on the truck and left me there".

Roselle's First Blacksmith Shop

(With acknowledgement to Jill Gross who wrote the original article)

Most of the shops and businesses that occupied Roselle's village limits in the early 1900's had been in operation since the late 1800's. It was common for a business to be handed down from one generation to the next. Roselle's first blacksmith shop was owned by Adolph Troyke in the late 1800's. He then passed the business down to his son Edwin Troyke. Edwin ran the blacksmith shop until the 1950's when he no longer shod horses, but primarily welded railings. Originally, the blacksmith shop was located on Irving Park Road. Later, Edwin Troyke moved the shop to Bokelman Street where their family home was built next door.



Back in Adolph's day, horses were still a major form of transportation. Having a blacksmith in town was very important: care and maintenance of horses and wagons was a booming business. Adolph spent much of his time repairing wagon wheels and shoeing horses. He also built Newton wagons and was proud to sell his own line of wagons called "Roselle wagons". "There were quite a few people in town who knew everybody. One of those was the blacksmith. In a small town, it would have been a good place to go for the local gossip. There would always be a big pot-bellied stove and barrels so people could sit around on a cold winter's night and swap stories," said Greg Heier, former Executive Director of the Roselle Historical Foundation. Heier also explained that the blacksmith shop was one of the biggest businesses in town because if you had a horse, you had to have horse shoes.

It's the business on Bokleman Street that brings back memories for Steve Troyke, who often visited his grandfather, Edwin, at the blacksmith shop. When Steve began visiting his grandpa, Edwin was no longer doing much horse shoeing. "Mostly he was welding railings. He had these big bellows, and he had a furnace. I liked to walk in and really see him make something—to watch him heat up and pound on it and turn it into something. It was a dirty old place, but that was the business," said Steve Troyke.

SAVE THE DATE

The annual Historical Evening will be held Saturday April 2, 2016 at Trinity Lutheran Church. This year's program will have a political theme ***"Mudslinging, Muckraking, and Apple Pie: Presidential Campaigns, the Great American Pastime"*** presented by Terry Lynch.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

If you have not yet renewed your membership please do so. We need your support. We ran a slight deficit this year so if you add a few dollars it would be appreciated!

Yes, I'd like to help the Museum! Here's my membership contribution

Mail to: Roselle History Museum, 39 E. Elm St. Roselle, IL 60172

New *Renewal* *Circle One:* \$30 \$50 \$100 \$250 *Other* _____

I have joined/renewed for at least \$50 and would like a free copy of the *Remembering Roselle* history book.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ *State* _____ *Zip* _____ *Phone* _____,

E-mail address _____

The Roselle Historical Foundation is a 501(c)(3) corporation, and your contribution may be fully tax deductible

**ROSELLE HISTORY MUSEUM
39 E. ELM STREET
ROSELLE, IL 60172**

